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Determinants of The Role of Rural Women Members of Representative Committees in Water User Associations in Some Villages in Behira Governorate

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to identify the rural women role, as members of the representative committees in WUA in some villages in Behira Governorate by identifying the level of participation in associations through environmental practice. As well as identifying the level of knowledge and environmental attitudes. The research, has been conducted in counties of Kafr -Eldawar ,Abu- homs and Mahmudiya in Behaira Governorate, which include 62 associations of water users. The sample size was 100 women, representing 44% of all women members in WUA in the area of the study, distributed as 31 in Kafr El Dawar, 40 in Abu Homs and 29 in Mahmudiya. The data were collected from rural women, by questionnaire. Some the statistical methods were used to describe and analyze data such as percentages, measures of central tendency ,chi square as well as Step- Wise regression analysis.

The results of the study revealed a significant relationship between each of, educational level, and marital status, for rural women members in WUA, and between environmental practices by using chi square test. The results of the study revealed also a significant partial correlation between level of environmental practices, and knowledge and environmental attitudes. Step- Wise regression analysis has shown that environmental knowledge of rural women was ranked first in terms of the relative importance in influencing environmental practices and after that comes environmental attitudes. The study concluded with some recommendations. The most important is the need to design programs to raise community awareness about the roles played by women in society in general and the agricultural sector in particular. The results suggested that future programs must be designed and directed toward the improvement of water management process and improvement of diffusion of irrigation technology. Finally, several recommendations are presented to fit up the misuse of irrigation water.

Keywords: Role of Rural Women; The environmental behavior of rural women; water users associations.